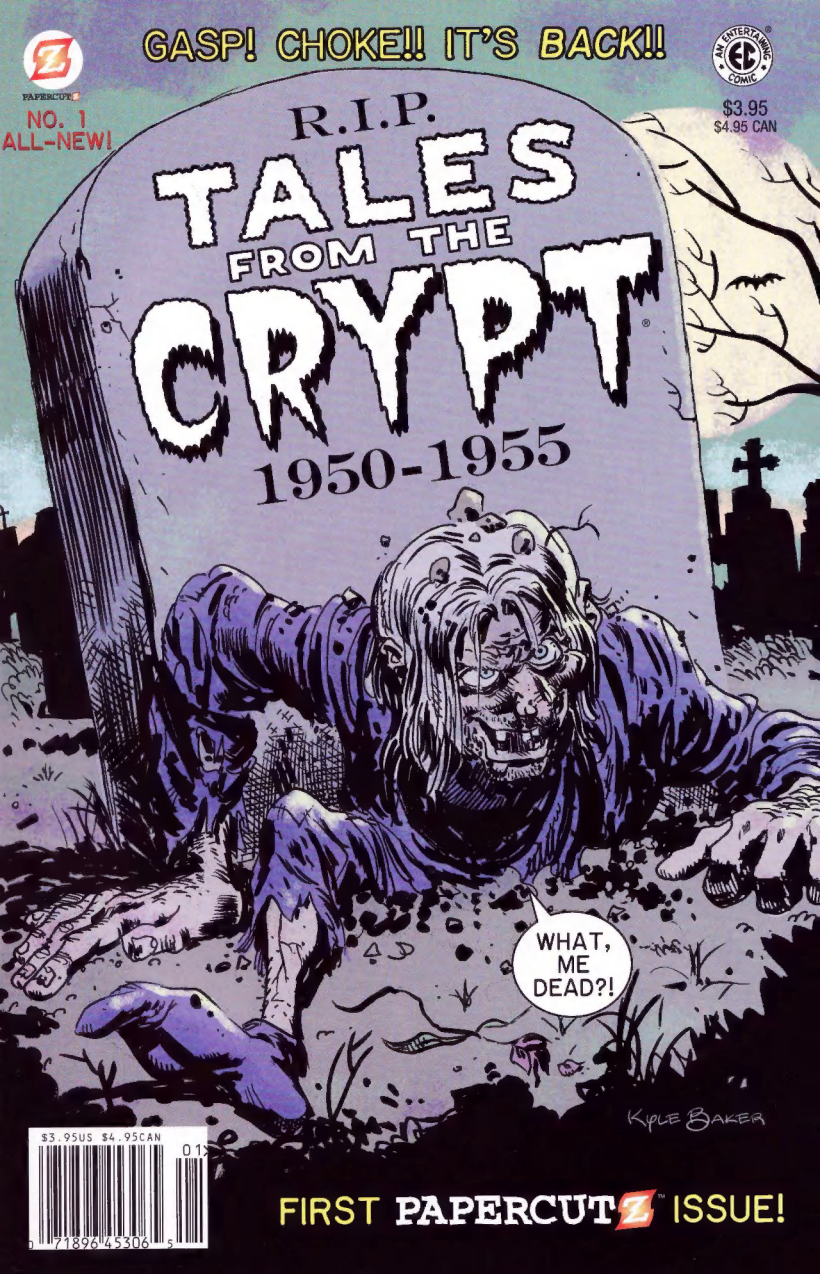
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"BODY OF WORK"
MARC BILGREY
WRITER
MR. EXES
ARTIST
ORTHO
LETTERER

THE CRYPT-KEEPER

"FOR SERIOUS COLLECTORS ONLY"
ROB VOLLMAR
WRITER
TIM SMITH 3
ARTIST
LAURIE E. SMITH
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LETTERER

GHOULUNATICS SEQUENCES
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CHARICATURES BY STEVE BRODNER
DRAWN AT MOCCA ART FEST

TERRY NANTIER

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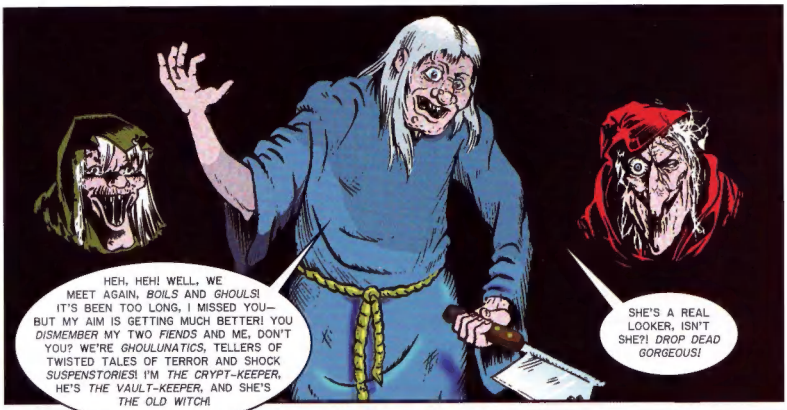
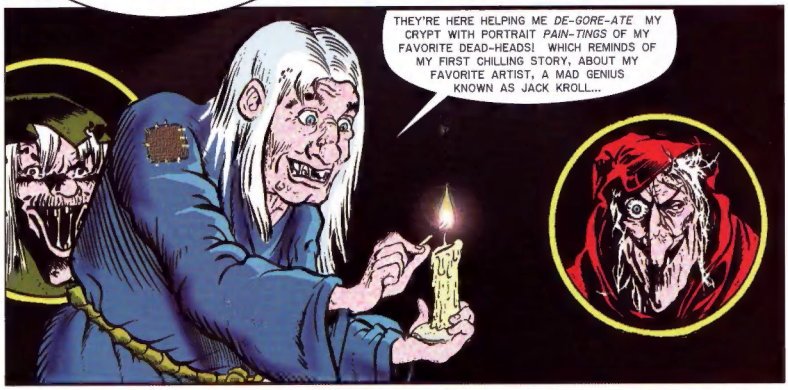
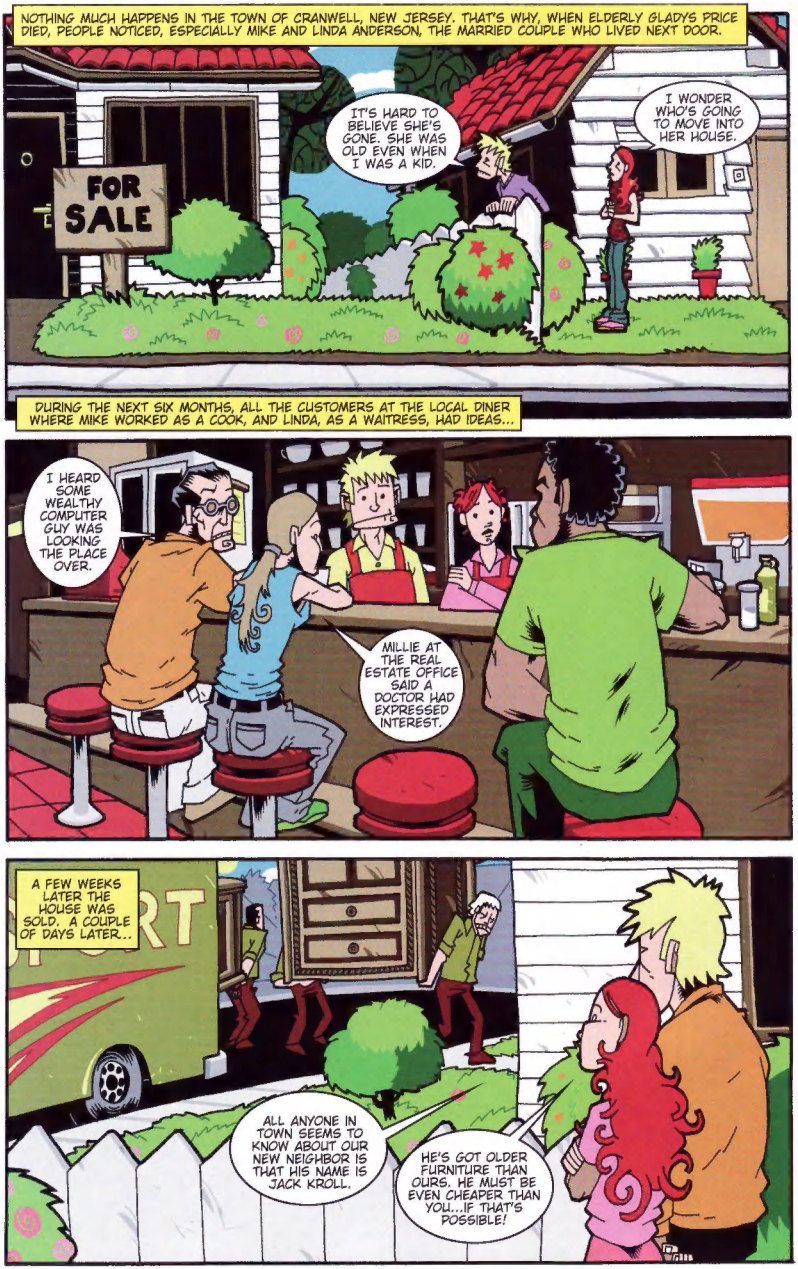

HEH, HEH! WELL, WE MEET AGAIN, *BOILS* AND *GHOULS*! IT'S BEEN TOO LONG, I MISSED YOU— BUT MY AIM IS GETTING MUCH BETTER! YOU *DISMEMBER* MY TWO *FIENDS* AND ME, DON'T YOU? WE'RE *GHOULUNATICS*, TELLERS OF TWISTED TALES OF TERROR AND SHOCK *SUSPENSTORIES*! I'M *THE CRYPT-KEEPER*, HE'S *THE VAULT-KEEPER*, AND SHE'S *THE OLD WITCH*!
SHE'S A REAL LOOKER, ISN'T SHE?! *DROP DEAD GORGEOUS!*

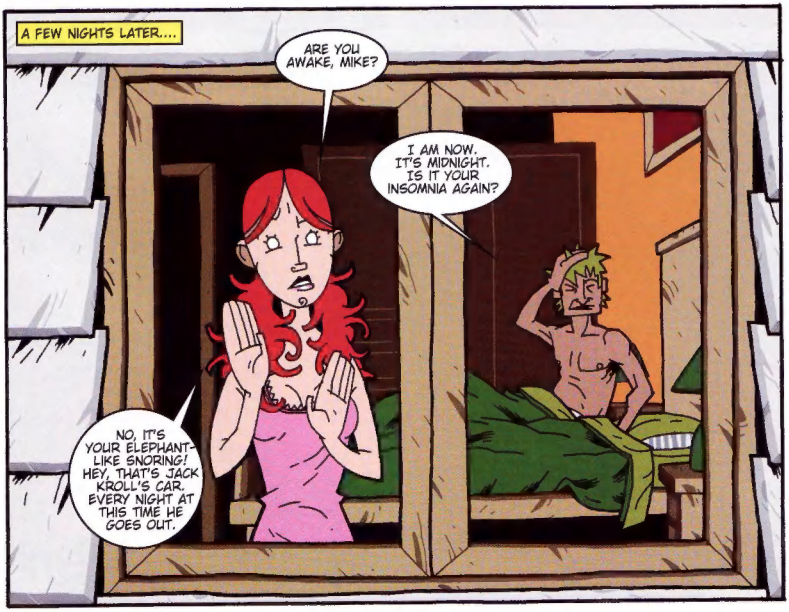

THEY'RE HERE HELPING ME *DE-GORE-ATE* MY CRYPT WITH PORTRAIT *PAIN-TINGS* OF MY FAVORITE DEAD-HEADS! WHICH REMINDS OF MY FIRST CHILLING STORY, ABOUT MY FAVORITE ARTIST, A MAD GENIUS KNOWN AS JACK KROLL...

I CALL IT...
BODY OF WORK!


NOTHING MUCH HAPPENS IN THE TOWN OF CRANWELL, NEW JERSEY. THAT'S WHY, WHEN ELDERLY GLADYS PRICE DIED, PEOPLE NOTICED, ESPECIALLY MIKE AND LINDA ANDERSON, THE MARRIED COUPLE WHO LIVED NEXT DOOR.
FOR SALE
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE SHE'S GONE. SHE WAS OLD EVEN WHEN I WAS A KID.
I WONDER WHO'S GOING TO MOVE INTO HER HOUSE.
DURING THE NEXT SIX MONTHS, ALL THE CUSTOMERS AT THE LOCAL DINER WHERE MIKE WORKED AS A COOK, AND LINDA, AS A WAITRESS, HAD IDEAS...
I HEARD SOME WEALTHY COMPUTER GUY WAS LOOKING THE PLACE OVER.
MILLIE AT THE REAL ESTATE OFFICE SAID A DOCTOR HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST.
A FEW WEEKS LATER THE HOUSE WAS SOLD. A COUPLE OF DAYS LATER...
ALL ANYONE IN TOWN SEEMS TO KNOW ABOUT OUR NEW NEIGHBOR IS THAT HIS NAME IS JACK KROLL.
HE'S GOT OLDER FURNITURE THAN OURS. HE MUST BE EVEN CHEAPER THAN YOU...IF THAT'S POSSIBLE!

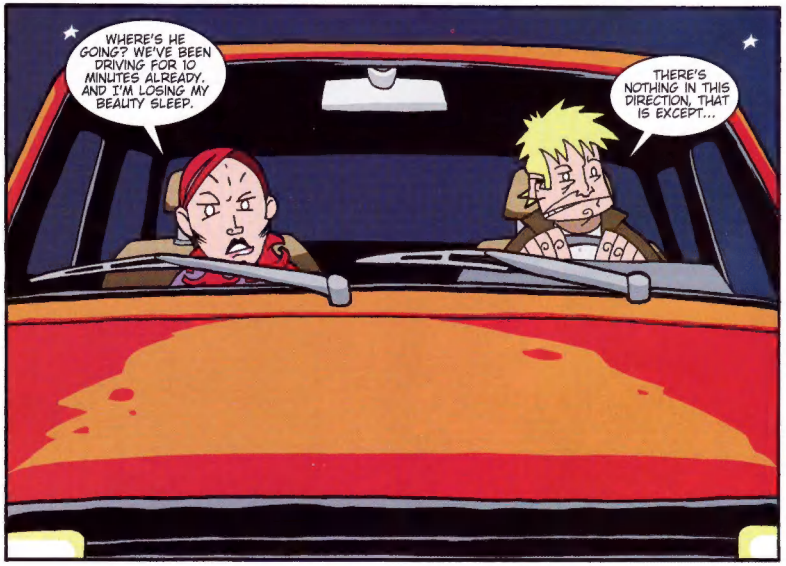
IT'S BEEN THREE MONTHS SINCE KROLL MOVED IN NEXT DOOR AND HE HASN'T TALKED TO US ONCE.
HEY, I TALK TO YOU ALL THE TIME, AND BELIEVE ME HE'S NOT MISSING ANYTHING!

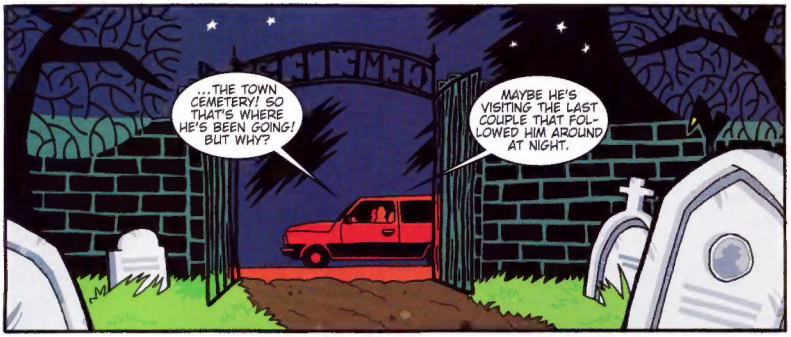
HE MUST HAVE MONEY; HE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE A JOB.
FRAN AT THE HARDWARE STORE SAYS HE COMES IN AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK AND BUYS PAINT AND CANVASES.
NOT LIKE THE "GLAMOROUS" ONES WE HAVE AT THE DINER.


A FEW NIGHTS LATER....
ARE YOU AWAKE, MIKE?
I AM NOW. IT'S MIDNIGHT. IS IT YOUR INSOMNIA AGAIN?
NO, IT'S YOUR ELEPHANT-LIKE SNORING! HEY, THAT'S JACK KROLL'S CAR. EVERY NIGHT AT THIS TIME HE GOES OUT.

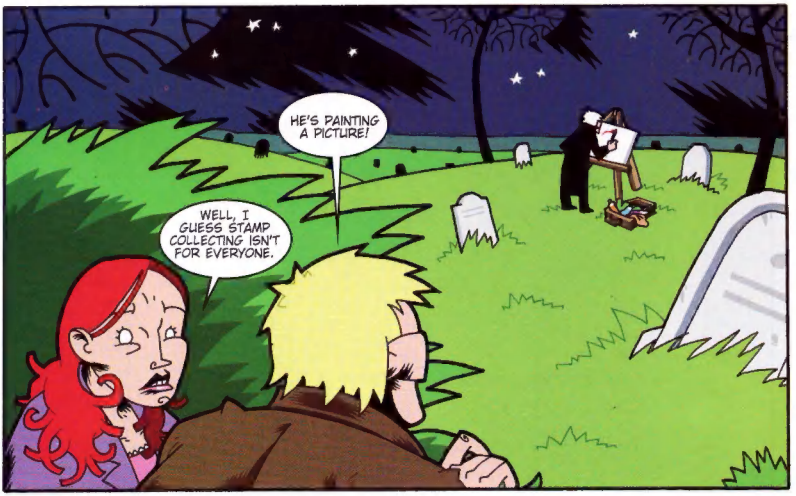
C'MON, LET'S FOLLOW HIM AND SEE WHERE HE GOES.
YEAH, THAT'S MY IDEA OF FUN--TAILING SOME WEIRDO IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!

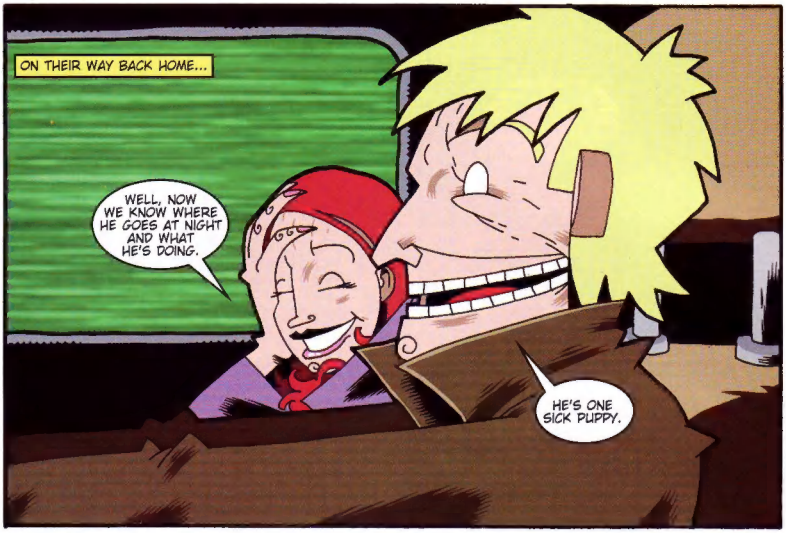
THIS COULD BE A WILD GOOSE CHASE, BUT I DON'T CARE. I WANT ANSWERS.
I'D LIKE ANSWERS TOO. LIKE WHAT MADE ME SAY, "I DO" FIFTEEN YEARS AGO?

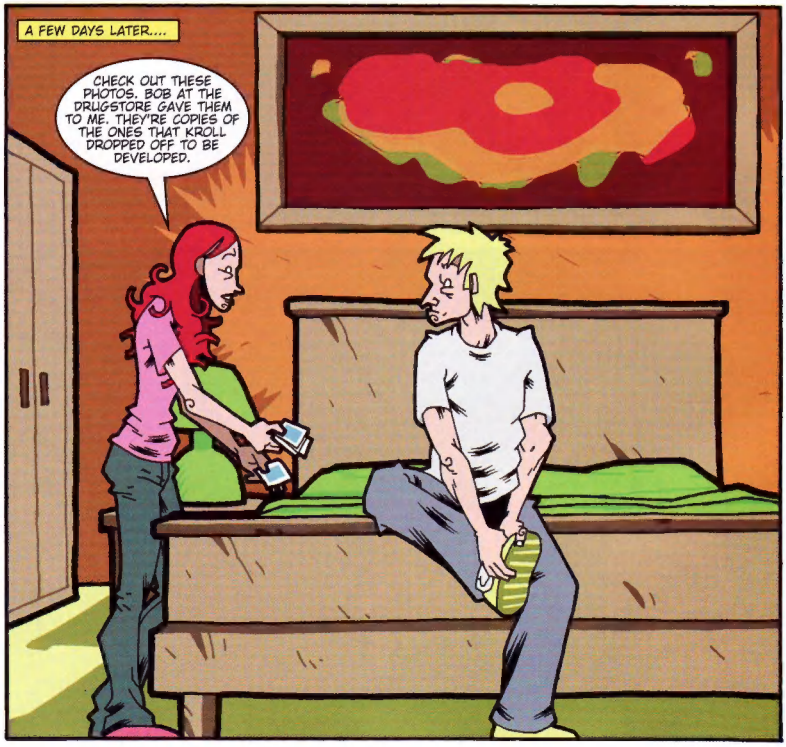

WHERE'S HE GOING? WE'VE BEEN DRIVING FOR 10 MINUTES ALREADY, AND I'M LOSING MY BEAUTY SLEEP.
THERE'S NOTHING IN THIS DIRECTION, THAT IS EXCEPT...


...THE TOWN CEMETERY! SO THAT'S WHERE HE'S BEEN GOING! BUT WHY?
MAYBE HE'S VISITING THE LAST COUPLE THAT FOLLOWED HIM AROUND AT NIGHT.

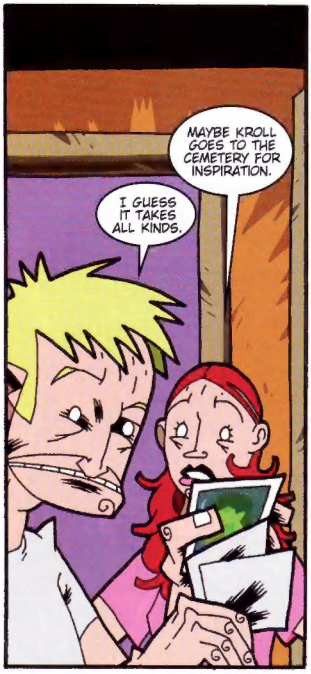
THERE HE IS! THIS IS REALLY CREEPY! EVEN SCARIER THAN OUR HONEYMOON!
KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN; WE DON'T WANT HIM TO HEAR US.
AND WE DON'T WANT TO WAKE UP ANYONE.


HE'S PAINTING A PICTURE!
WELL, I GUESS STAMP COLLECTING ISN'T FOR EVERYONE.

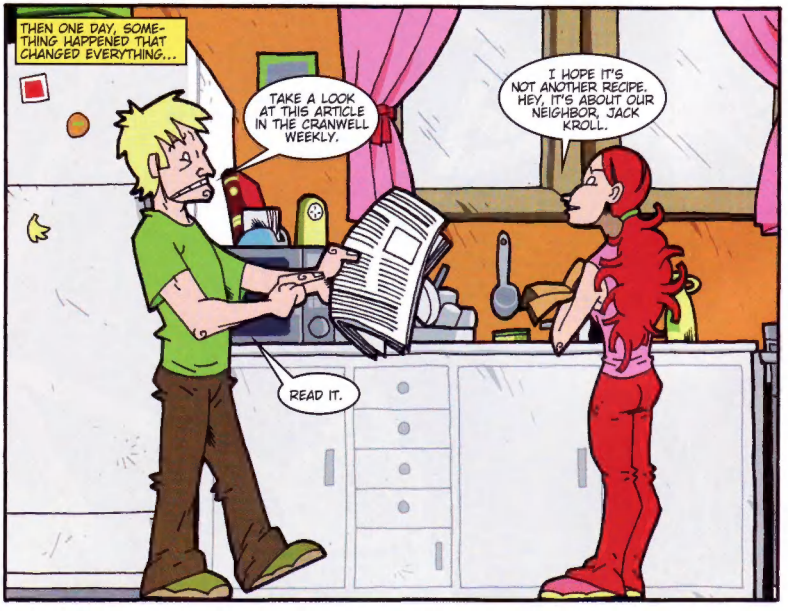

ON THEIR WAY BACK HOME...
WELL, NOW WE KNOW WHERE HE GOES AT NIGHT AND WHAT HE'S DOING.
HE'S ONE SICK PUPPY.


A FEW DAYS LATER....
CHECK OUT THESE PHOTOS. BOB AT THE DRUGSTORE GAVE THEM TO ME. THEY'RE COPIES OF THE ONES THAT KROLL DROPPED OFF TO BE DEVELOPED.

THESE MUST BE SOME OF HIS PAINTINGS! LOOK AT ALL THOSE CORPSES! YOU DON'T THINK HE ACTUALLY DIGS THEM UP, DO YOU?
IF HE HAD, MARTY AT THE POLICE STATION WOULD'VE SAID SOMETHING AT OUR WEEKLY POKER GAME.
A. MARAT


MAYBE KROLL GOES TO THE CEMETERY FOR INSPIRATION.
I GUESS IT TAKES ALL KINDS.

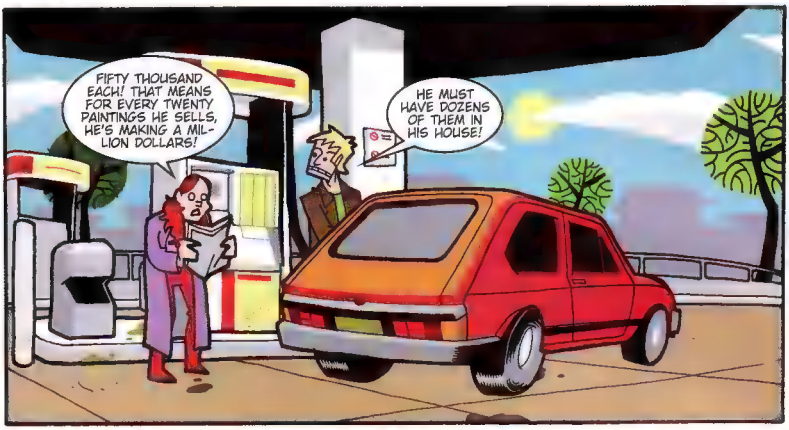
AFTER THAT, THINGS WERE QUIET FOR A WHILE. OR AT LEAST AS QUIET AS IT GETS IN ANY SMALL TOWN.
YOU RUINED THESE PANCAKES.
IT'S A NEW RECIPE I'M TRYING.
WHAT'S IT CALLED? "HOW TO LOSE CUSTOMERS AND GET US FIRED"?


THEN ONE DAY, SOMETHING HAPPENED THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING...
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS ARTICLE IN THE CRANWELL WEEKLY.
I HOPE IT'S NOT ANOTHER RECIPE. HEY, IT'S ABOUT OUR NEIGHBOR, JACK KROLL.
READ IT.

"LOCAL ARTIST, JACK KROLL, WHO RECENTLY MOVED INTO CRANWELL, HAS AN EXHIBIT OF HIS PAINTINGS AT A NEW YORK ART GALLERY....
KEEP READING.

"KROLL'S PAINTINGS OF GRAVEYARDS AND CORPSES ARE PART OF AN IMPORTANT NEW ART MOVEMENT CALLED, 'OUTSIDER ART.'" YOU MEAN PEOPLE ACTUALLY BUY THIS JUNK?
KEEP GOING, YOU HAVEN'T GOTTEN TO THE GOOD PART YET.

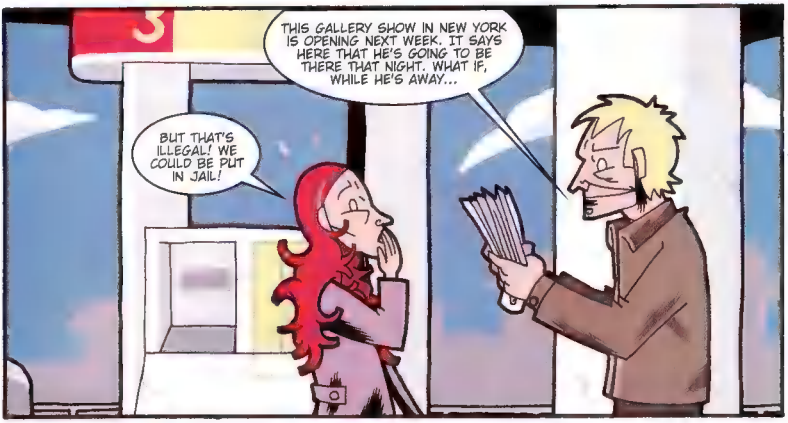
HOLY COW! "HIS PAINTINGS OF GRAVEYARDS AND CORPSES COMMAND UPWARDS OF FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS EACH!
NO WONDER THE GUY DOESN'T WORK AT A REGULAR JOB! HE'S LOADED!


FIFTY THOUSAND EACH! THAT MEANS FOR EVERY TWENTY PAINTINGS HE SELLS, HE'S MAKING A MILLION DOLLARS!
HE MUST HAVE DOZENS OF THEM IN HIS HOUSE!

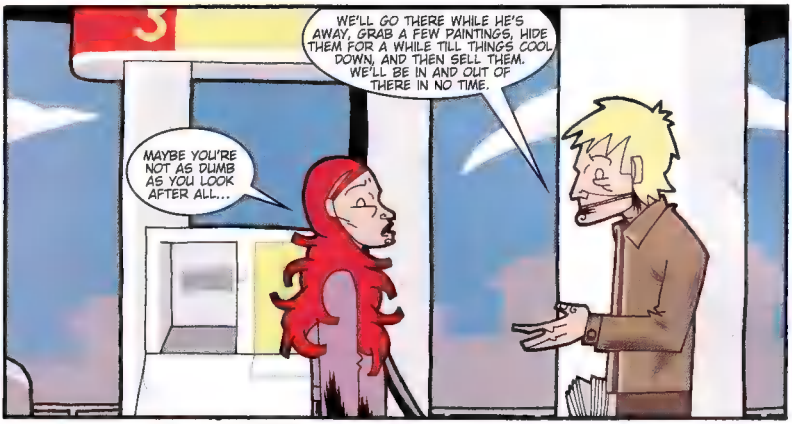
SO WHAT GOOD DOES THAT DO US?
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THAT.

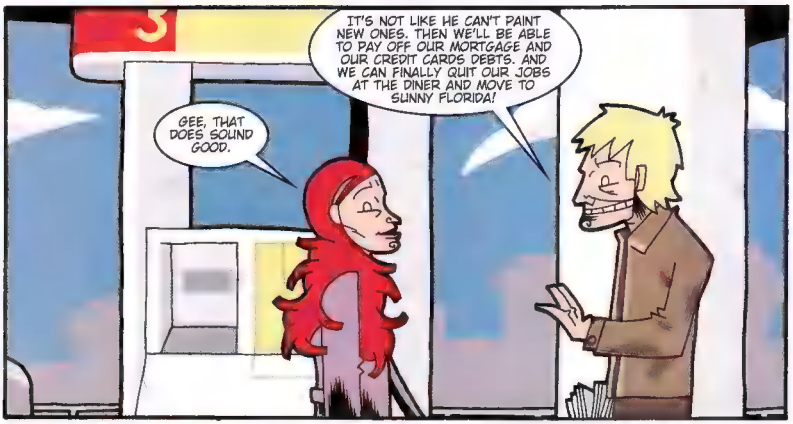
WHEN YOU START THINKING, I START WORRYING.
SUPPOSE WE HAPPENED TO, UH, ACQUIRE SOME OF THEM.
HUH?

ACCORDING TO THIS ARTICLE, KROLL IS VERY PROLIFIC. MAYBE HE WOULDN'T EVEN NOTICE IF A FEW OF HIS UGLY CORPSES WENT MISSING.
ARE YOU SAYING WHAT I THINK YOU'RE SAYING?


THIS GALLERY SHOW IN NEW YORK IS OPENING NEXT WEEK. IT SAYS HERE THAT HE'S GOING TO BE THERE THAT NIGHT. WHAT IF, WHILE HE'S AWAY...
BUT THAT'S ILLEGAL! WE COULD BE PUT IN JAIL!

CALM DOWN! RELAX! NOBODY'S GOING TO GET CAUGHT.
OH, GREAT ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR GET RICH QUICK SCHEMES. THE LAST ONE WAS SPINACH ICE CREAM.

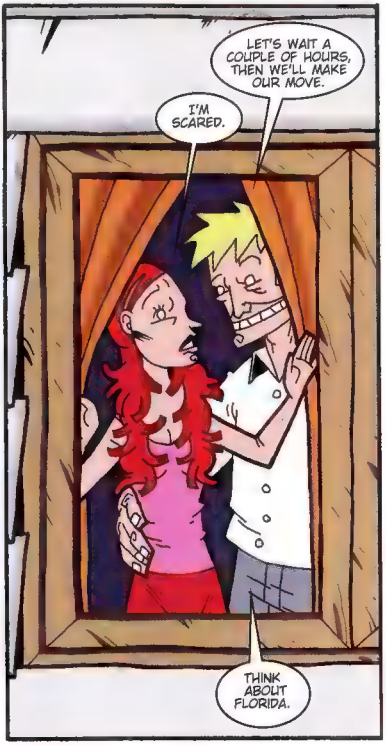

WE'LL GO THERE WHILE HE'S AWAY, GRAB A FEW PAINTINGS, HIDE THEM FOR A WHILE TILL THINGS COOL DOWN, AND THEN SELL THEM. WE'LL BE IN AND OUT OF THERE IN NO TIME.
MAYBE YOU'RE NOT AS DUMB AS YOU LOOK AFTER ALL...


IT'S NOT LIKE HE CAN'T PAINT NEW ONES. THEN WE'LL BE ABLE TO PAY OFF OUR MORTGAGE AND OUR CREDIT CARDS DEBTS. AND WE CAN FINALLY QUIT OUR JOBS AT THE DINER AND MOVE TO SUNNY FLORIDA!
GEE, THAT DOES SOUND GOOD.

IT SOUNDS GREAT! THIS GUY KROLL WILL BE FUNDING OUR EARLY RETIREMENT. IT'LL BE LIKE HAVING A RICH UNCLE WHO LIKES US. AND THE BEST PART IS NO ONE WILL REALLY GET HURT. KROLL WILL JUST PAINT A FEW MORE TO MAKE UP FOR HIS LOSSES.
HMMMM... I'M STARTING TO LIKE THIS IDEA.... DESPITE MYSELF.

A WEEK WENT BY AND THEN THE DAY CAME...
KROLL'S GETTING INTO HIS CAR. IN A FEW MINUTES THAT CREEP WILL BE ON HIS WAY TO NEW YORK.
IT TAKES AT LEAST AN HOUR AND A HALF TO GET TO THE CITY, PLUS WITH THE TRAFFIC AT THIS HOUR, YOU CAN ADD AT LEAST ANOTHER HALF HOUR.

ACCORDING TO THE ART GALLERY, THE OPENING PARTY SHOULD GO ON PAST MIDNIGHT. SO WE'RE LOOKING AT FOUR OR FIVE HOURS AT LEAST.
THAT'S ASSUMING THAT HE DOESN'T STAY AT A HOTEL IN NEW YORK FOR THE NIGHT. BUT WE CAN'T COUNT ON THAT.


LET'S WAIT A COUPLE OF HOURS, THEN WE'LL MAKE OUR MOVE.
I'M SCARED.
THINK ABOUT FLORIDA.

TWO HOURS LATER...
WE'RE IN HIS BACKYARD! WE'RE HALFWAY THERE.
HEY, KEEP YOUR SHIRT ON, TOM CRUISE--THIS ISN'T MISSION IMPOSSIBLE!

NOW REMEMBER, YOU'RE STANDING WATCH OUTSIDE. CALL ME ON YOUR CELL IF THERE ARE ANY SIGNS OF TROUBLE.
OKAY.

MIKE PRIES OPEN A WINDOW AND LOWERS HIMSELF INTO HIS NEIGHBOR'S BASEMENT.
LOOK AT ALL THIS JUNK. IT LOOKS LIKE A RUMMAGE SALE AT STEPHEN KING'S HOUSE.

IN ANOTHER ROOM...
PAY DIRT! IT'S A TREASURE TROVE! THERE'S ENOUGH HERE TO PAY FOR OUR RETIREMENT A HUNDRED TIMES OVER!

MIKE EAGERLY GRABS AS MANY PAINTINGS AS HE CAN CARRY AND RETURNS TO HIS HOUSE...
LOOK AT THEM! THEY'RE THE UGLIEST THINGS YOU'VE EVER SEEN, AND WORTH THEIR WEIGHT IN GOLD!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT. WE DID IT!

NOT YET! I'M GOING BACK AND MAKING ANOTHER RUN!
BUT WE'VE GOT PLENTY HERE!
I'LL JUST GET A FEW MORE. I'M TELLING YOU, HE HAS A WHOLE BASEMENT FULL OF THEM!

I DON'T LIKE IT. IT'S TOO RISKY! WE HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH! DON'T GET GREEDY!
YOU THINK TOO SMALL. WAIT HERE, I'LL BE BACK IN TEN MINUTES.

BACK AT KROLL'S HOUSE...
DON'T MOVE OR I'LL SHOOT YOU!
KROLL?! BUT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE AT THE GALLERY IN NEW YORK!

WHEN THE HOUSE ALARM WENT OFF IN MY CAR I HAD TO COME BACK AND INVESTIGATE--WELL, WELL, IF IT ISN'T MY NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOR!
LOOK, UH, I CAN EXPLAIN...

YOU CAN EXPLAIN ALL YOU LIKE TO THE POLICE.
THERE'S NO NEED TO CALL THE COPS...

BANG!

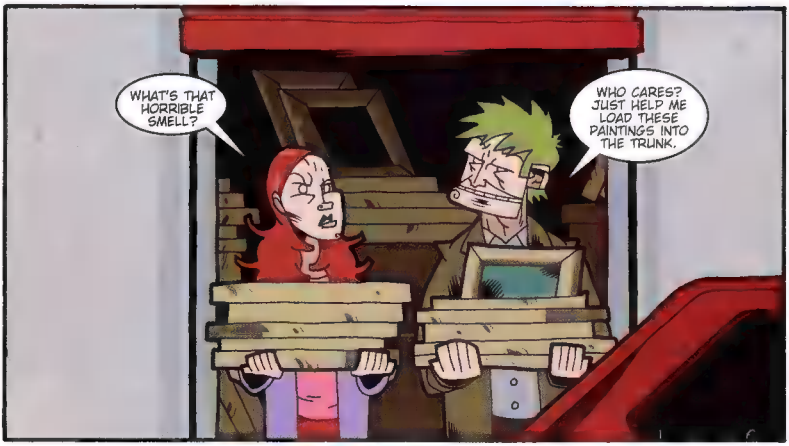
AFTER GETTING BACK TO HIS HOUSE, MIKE TOLD LINDA WHAT HAPPENED. THEN HE SHOWERED, CHANGED CLOTHES, AND TOGETHER, THEY GOT INTO THEIR CAR AND DROVE TO THEIR STORAGE UNIT OUTSIDE OF THE NEXT TOWN...

A FEW DAYS LATER, THE OWNER OF THE NEW YORK ART GALLERY CALLED THE CRANWELL POLICE TO REPORT THAT THEY HAD BEEN UNABLE TO REACH KROLL. THE POLICE CHECKED KROLL'S HOUSE AND FOUND HIS BODY...

AN INVESTIGATION FOLLOWED THAT TURNED UP NO LEADS TO THE MURDER OF JACK KROLL. BUT, BECAUSE THEY WERE HIS NEIGHBORS, MIKE AND LINDA WERE QUESTIONED...
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU FOLKS, JUST DOING MY JOB. SEE YOU AT THE POKER GAME NEXT WEEK, MIKE.
SURE, THING, CHIEF, I MEAN, MARTY.

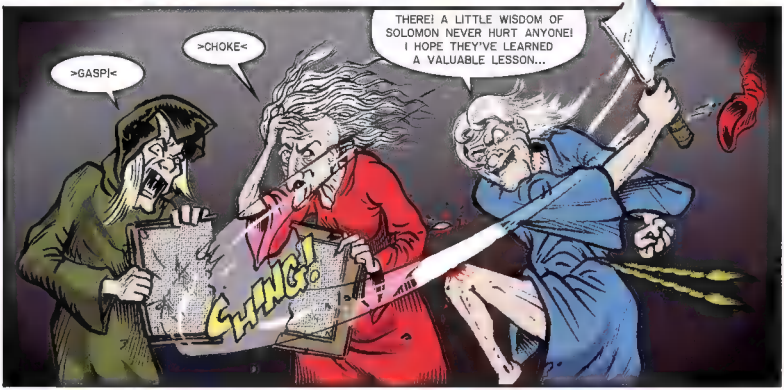
A YEAR WENT BY, AND LIFE WENT ON IN THE TOWN OF CRANWELL. AND PEOPLE FORGOT ABOUT THE ARTIST WHO WAS MURDERED. BUT THERE WERE TWO PEOPLE WHO DID NOT FORGET...
ACCORDING TO THIS WEBSITE, NOW THAT KROLL'S BEEN DEAD FOR A YEAR, THE VALUE OF HIS PAINTINGS HAVE GONE UP A LOT.
NOW'S THE TIME TO SELL! I'VE GOT ART DEALERS IN THREE STATES THAT HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN BUYING HIS PICTURES.

THAT NIGHT, MIKE AND LINDA DROVE TO THEIR STORAGE UNIT TO RETRIEVE SOME OF JACK KROLL'S PAINTINGS...
LUCKILY, THIS STORAGE FACILITY HAS TWENTY-FOUR HOUR ACCESS.
I DON'T LIKE COMING HERE AT NIGHT. IT'S SPOOKY. WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
PROBABLY SOMEONE GOING TO THEIR OWN STORAGE SPACE.

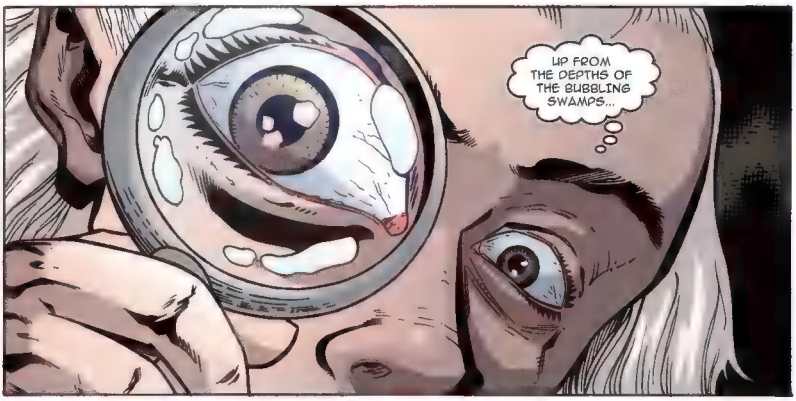

WHAT'S THAT HORRIBLE SMELL?
WHO CARES? JUST HELP ME LOAD THESE PAINTINGS INTO THE TRUNK.

BUT BEFORE MIKE AND LINDA COULD TAKE ANY MORE OF THE PAINTINGS OUT, THEY HEARD THE SOUND OF SOMETHING SCRAPING AGAINST THE ASPHALT ON THE GROUND. AND THEN THAT TERRIBLE SMELL SUDDENLY GOT MUCH, MUCH WORSE...
OH, MY LORD! >CHOKE< CORPSES! JUST LIKE THE ONES IN KROLL'S PAINTINGS! ONLY THESE ARE REAL! AND THAT ONE IS DRESSED IN KROLL'S CLOTHES!
AND THE OTHERS... THAT BLUE DRESS... THE STRIPED SHIRT... THEY'RE KROLL'S MODELS!!
MR. EXES
THE NEXT DAY THE POLICE FOUND MIKE AND LINDA DEAD. THEY'D BOTH HAD HEART ATTACKS. THE ODDS OF THAT HAPPENING, ACCORDING TO THE MEDICAL EXAMINER, WERE ASTRONOMICAL. THE PAINTINGS WERE RECOVERED, AND SENT TO JACK KROLL'S ONLY LIVING RELATIVE; AN OLD AUNT, WHOM, FOR SOME REASON, THOUGHT THEY WERE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THINGS SHE'D EVER SEEN.

YOU GOT TO ADMIT, THOSE MORBID MASTERPIECES ARE WORTH DIEING FOR! EXCUSE ME FOR A SECOND AS I GET ALL *BIBLICAL* ON MY *CRYPT-GUESTS*...


>GASP!<
>CHOKE<
THERE! A LITTLE WISDOM OF SOLOMON NEVER HURT ANYONE! I HOPE THEY'VE LEARNED A VALUABLE LESSON...
CHING!

...JUST LIKE THOMAS DONALLEY WILL IN THIS TALE I CALL...
"FOR SERIOUS COLLECTORS ONLY!"


UP FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE BUBBLING SWAMPS...

AN ABOMINATION BORN OF NATURE, RADIOACTIVE WASTE, AND EVIL!

250% 呪いレベルUP!
スーパーオニロボット
イメガエル! 家コワス!
NEW!
BEHOLD CROC-O-ZOID!

TOMMY!
ARE YOU STILL PLAYING WITH THOSE HORRIBLE DOLLS?
YOU'RE GONNA BE LATE FOR WORK!

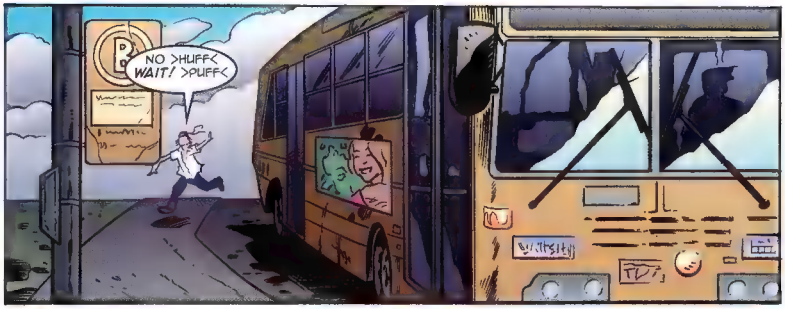
THEY AREN'T DOLLS, MOM!

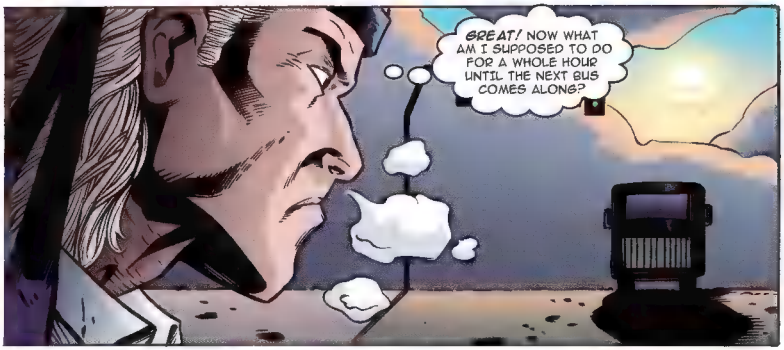
THEY'RE FULLY-POSEABLE, MICRO-ARTICULATED ACTION FIGURES!
AND I WASN'T EVEN LOOKING AT 'EM!

TOMMY DONALLEY,YOU'RE GONNA LOSE YOUR JOB OVER DOLLS?!
WHATEVER! I'M NOT EVEN LATE!
THEY WOULDN'T FIRE ME ANYWAY.
MACMILLANS WOULD TOTALLY CLOSE IF I WASN'T THERE!
OH, YOU SOUND JUST LIKE YOUR FATHER RIGHT BEFORE HE LOST EVERY JOB HE EVER HAD, GOD REST HIS SOUL!
MAKE SURE YOU COME STRAIGHT HOME AFTER WORK, TOMMY.
YOU KNOW HOW I WORRY!
ALL RIGHT! JUST LET ME GO!

TRY TO BE ON TIME TOMORROW, THOMAS.
YOU'LL BE BAGGING FOR TEENA.
Mac Milan's
CHAOS
WHY DO I ALWAYS GET STUCK WORKING WITH HER?
TEENA SMACKS HER GUM AND SHE'S RUDE TO ME!
WELL, FOR STARTERS, YOU ARE BOTH ALWAYS LATE.
HIM AGAIN?
SPIT OUT YOUR GUM OR I'LL WRITE YOU UP, AGAIN.
POP
1¢
2
IF YOU TWO CAN GO AN HOUR WITHOUT COMPLAINING ABOUT EACH OTHER, I'LL GET YOU OUT OF HERE BY FOUR THIRTY...
YOU THINK YOU CAN MANAGE THAT?
4

5:15
OOOOH, I JUST HATE HER!


NO >HUFF< WAIT! >PUFF<


GREAT! NOW WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO FOR A WHOLE HOUR UNTIL THE NEXT BUS COMES ALONG?

DRAGON'S HOARD
COMICS
NANCY DREW
HARDY BOY

CRUD! THAT CREEPY GUY IS WORKING TODAY!
I HATE THE WAY HE TALKS LIKE HE KNOWS EVERYTHING!
COMICS

>GASP<
O, SWEET PLASTICKY THING OF PENULTIMATE EXCELLENCE, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN MY WHOLE LIFE?

THE PACKAGING ALONE LOOKS BETTER THAN MOST OF THE FIGURES I ALREADY OWN!
A HAIKU:
MY CUP
EMPTY BEFORE THIS MOMENT.
ROBOT COMPLETE ME.
YIKES!
AH, I SEE YOU'VE FOUND OUR LATEST IMPORT PIECE.
EXQUISITE, ISN'T IT?
IT'S OKAY IF YOU ARE INTO FOREIGN STUFF, I GUESS.
IS IT ON SALE?

UH, NO.
PROBABLY BETTER IF WE DONT HANDLE IT. SERIOUS COLLECTORS WILLING TO DROP A HUNDRED BUCKS ON A PIECE LIKE THIS ARE PICKY ABOUT CONDITION.
I CAN FIND A DOZEN OF THESE ONLINE FOR HALF THAT!
BE MY GUEST.
I'LL BE PRICING UP YO-GI-MON CARDS IF YOU NEED ANY MORE HELP.
スーパー鬼ロボット
生きカエル
家コワス!
250%呪い
BUT LATER THAT NIGHT...
I CAN'T EVEN FIND A PICTURE OF IT!
WHY DIDN'T I ASK HIM WHAT THE STUPID THING WAS CALLED?!
TOMMY! I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO GO TO BED!
I WON'T SLEEP A WINK IF I HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE UP TO DOWN HERE!

HEY, WILL YOU LOAN ME A HUNDRED BUCKS UNTIL PAYDAY?
A HUNDRED DOLLARS?!
WHAT DO YOU NEED A HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR?
IT'S FOR MY COLLECTION!
C'MON! I'LL PAY YOU BACK!
ABSOLUTELY NOT! YOU'VE GOT ENOUGH DOLLS AS IT IS!
IF IT WAS ONE OF YOUR STUPID CUTIEZ FIGURINES, YOU'D GIVE IT TO ME!
WATCH YOUR MOUTH, YOUNG MAN, OR I'LL START CHARGING YOU FOR FOOD AGAIN!
NOW GO TO BED!
I DON'T CARE WHAT SHE SAYS!
I'VE GOT TO GET THAT MONEY SOMEHOW!

THE NEXT DAY AT WORK...
HEY, DOOFUS, I'M TAKING A BREAK.
DON'T BE A JERK IF WHATSHIS-NAME COMES BY, JUST TELL HIM I'M HELPING AN OLD LADY OR SOMETHIN'...

SHE LEFT HER REGISTER CARD!

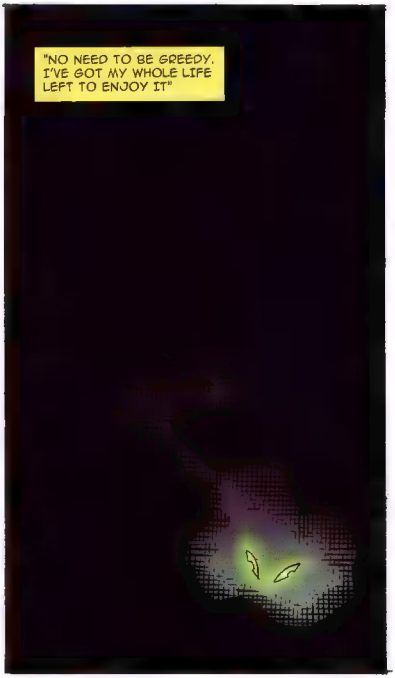
2.99
4
HA! HER DUMB LUCK IS MY GAIN!
AND IF TEENA GETS FIRED, WELL, THAT'S WHAT SHE DESERVES FOR BEING RUDE TO ME!

WHO'S THE SERIOUS COLLECTOR NOW, MISTER CONDESCENDING COMIC BOOK STORE GUY?

ARE YOU HOME FROM WORK, TOMMY?
YEAH, MOM!

THE HOURS SEEM TO FLY BY AS THOMAS EXAMINES HIS ILL-GOTTEN GAIN UNTIL...
>UGH< I'M TOO TIRED TO KEEP MY EYES FOCUSED ANY LONGER.

JUST ONE MORE DAY OF WORK TO GET THROUGH AND THEN I'LL HAVE THE WEEKEND TO LOOK AT IT AS MUCH AS I LIKE.


"NO NEED TO BE GREEDY. I'VE GOT MY WHOLE LIFE LEFT TO ENJOY IT"

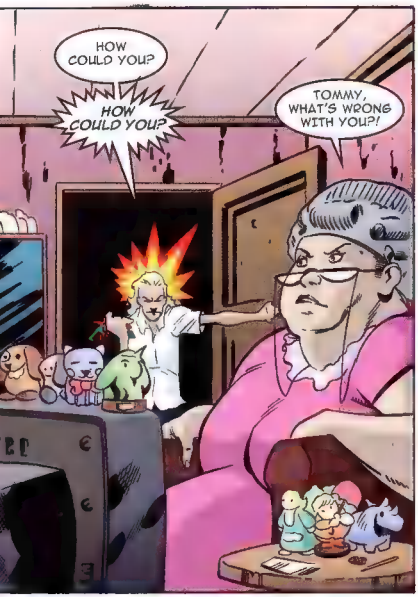
2.99
THIS IS VERY SERIOUS.

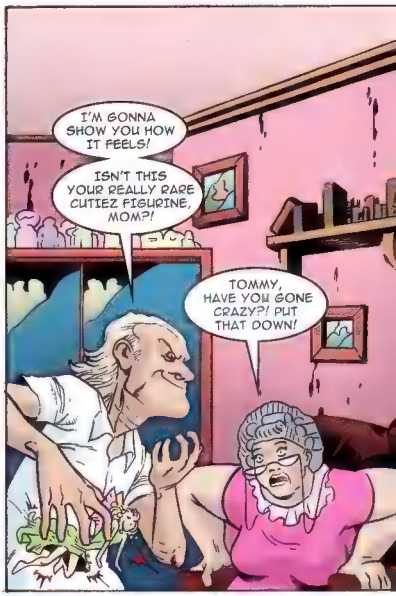
DO YOU STILL HAVE THE MONEY YOU STOLE?
I--
WELL, I MEAN...

YOU'RE FIRED.
I'LL GIVE YOU TWENTY-FOUR HOURS TO RETURN THAT MONEY BEFORE I CALL THE POLICE.

HE'S NOT TO BE ALLOWED ON THE PREMISES AGAIN WITHOUT AN ESCORT.
SEE YA LATER, DOOFUS!

EVEN IF THE DRAGON'S HOARD WILL GIVE ME HALF OF WHAT I PAID FOR THAT IMPORT FIGURE, I STILL WON'T HAVE ENOUGH TO PAY MACMILLANS BACK BY TOMORROW!
MAYBE THEY'LL BUY SOME OF MY OTH-
EEP!
NOOOOOOOOOO!


HOW COULD YOU?
HOW COULD YOU?
TOMMY, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!


I'M GONNA SHOW YOU HOW IT FEELS!
ISN'T THIS YOUR REALLY RARE CUTIEZ FIGURINE, MOM?!
TOMMY, HAVE YOU GONE CRAZY?! PUT THAT DOWN!

RRRAAAGH!

>UGK<

WE'VE GOT YOUR STATEMENT.
WE'LL CALL YOU IF WE HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.
IN ANY EVENT, WE'RE SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS.
ALSO, DON'T LEAVE TOWN.
UH, THANKS.
I MEAN, I WON'T.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THOSE STUPID COPS NEVER SUSPECTED A THING!
KRASSHH
HEY, WHAT'S THAT?!

HELLO?!
THMP

AAAGH!

ALRIGHT, WHOEVER YOU ARE!
I'VE HAD JUST ABOUT ENOUGH OF THIS!

AAAAAAGH!
GET OFF OF ME!
TAKE THAT! OW!
AND THAT! OW!

THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!

I HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!

AAAAGH!
ET TU, CROC-O-ZOID?
ET TU?

NNNNNNO!
YOU!
YOU BROUGHT THEM TO LIFE SOMEHOW!
HOW COULD YOU TURN MY OWN FULLY-POSEABLE, MICRO-ARTICULATED ACTION FIGURES AGAINST ME?
STAY AWAY!
GOOD LORD! NO! NOOOOOO!

NOOOOOOOO!

NOOOOOOOO!

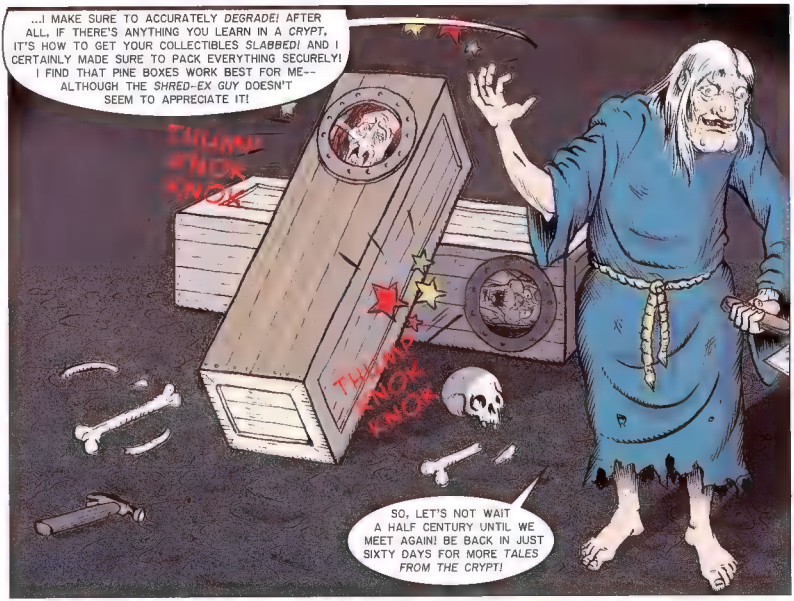
Translation:
"SUPER EVIL DEMON ROBOT!
"COMES TO LIFE!
WRECKS YOUR HOME!
"NOW 250% MORE CURSED!"

"FOR SERIOUS
COLLECTORS ONLY"

THE END

HA! HA! HA! TOMMY GOT MORE ACTION FROM HIS FULLY-POSEABLE, MICRO-ARTICULATED FIGURES THAN HE BARGAINED FOR!
SEE, KIDDIES— ALWAYS BE SURE TO READ THE LABEL! OR DO YOU JUST THINK THAT'S JUST A CROC-O-ZOID?

SERIOUS COLLECTORS ARE NOT TO BE TRIFLED WITH! THAT'S WHY WHEN I LIST MY WORTHLESS JUNK ON EEKBAY...


...I MAKE SURE TO ACCURATELY DEGRADE! AFTER ALL, IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU LEARN IN A CRYPT, IT'S HOW TO GET YOUR COLLECTIBLES SLABBED! AND I CERTAINLY MADE SURE TO PACK EVERYTHING SECURELY! I FIND THAT PINE BOXES WORK BEST FOR ME-- ALTHOUGH THE SHRED-EX GUY DOESN'T SEEM TO APPRECIATE IT!
THUMP KNOCK KNOCK
THUMP KNOCK KNOCK
SO, LET'S NOT WAIT A HALF CENTURY UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN! BE BACK IN JUST SIXTY DAYS FOR MORE TALES FROM THE CRYPT!

The Return of TALES FROM THE CRYPT

It's one of the biggest surprises in the world of comics and graphic novel publishing! Shortly before the 2007 New York Comic Con, Papercutz announced that we would be publishing all-new TALES FROM THE CRYPT comics. After more than 50 years, EC Comics' legendary flagship title returns with all-new shocking SuspenStories, narrated by the original Crypt-Keeper, Old Witch, and Vault Keeper. Each issue will feature two 20-page tales of terror in the EC tradition!

Reactions ranged from excitement–from fans thrilled to see the most famous horror comicbook ever return after over fifty years, to shock–that it was to be coming from a publisher primarily known for its graphic novels such as Nancy Drew and The Hardy Boys which contain material suitable for all-ages, as the HBO TALES FROM THE CRYPT series certainly contained a fair amount of adult content.

"People forget that the original TALES FROM THE CRYPT comicbook, published by the EC Comics back in the 50s, was also intended for all-ages, and its primary readership was young boys," Papercutz Editor-in-Chief Jim Salicrup is quick to point out. But that may be exactly what fans find so controversial. The original TALES FROM THE CRYPT comics, featuring stories dreamed up by EC publisher William M. Gaines and his editor Al Feldstein, and drawn by Feldstein, as well as Graham Ingles, Jack Davis, Jack Kamen, Joe Orlando, Wally Wood, Harvey Kurtzman, Bill Elder, Reed Crandall, Johnny Craig, Al Williamson, George Evans, and colored by Marie Severin, started a horror comics craze that soon drew the attention of psychiatrist Dr. Frederick Wertham.

Wertham reacted to horror comics' popularity with children by writing a book called "Seduction of the Innocent," which maintained that comics led to juvenile delinquency and even worse behavior. Parents were understandably alarmed, and soon the Senate Subcommittee to Investigate Juvenile Delinquency was taking a hard look at comicbooks. EC Comics publisher Bill Gaines spoke before the Subcommittee, but was unable to convince them that his comics were entertaining stories told in good taste. Ultimately, comicbook publishers adversely affected by the negative publicity created the Comics Magazine Association of America which would review comics and award a seal of approval to assure parents that the comic's contents were safe, wholesome entertainment.

Unfortunately, it was too late for many publishers, as the negative publicity had so hurt sales of comics that many comicbook companies went out of business. EC Comics, tried to hang in there, but despite canceling their horror comics, and creating new titles such as "Valor" and "Psychoanalysis," only MAD comics, in a new magazine format, survived.

The question is, was TALES FROM CRYPT really all that bad? "Of course not!" Salicrup insists. "Ironically, many of the original stories would be approved by today's revised Comics Code, but sure, there were some stories that still wouldn't get by. The point here is that the stories that Papercutz will be creating will be aimed at readers age 10 and up. Instead of excessive blood and gore, we'll be sticking to the TALES FROM THE CRYPT tradition of stories filled with interesting characters, lots of dark humor, and of course, the trademarked EC "shock" endings!"

But ultimately it's you who will decide if we succeeded or failed. Send your comments to us at salicrup@papercutz.com or to THE CRYPT-KEEPER'S CORNER, PAPERCUTZ, 40 Exchange Place, Ste. 1308, New York, NY 10005. We'll run the most interesting comments in our next issue, which is coming your way in just 60 days.

When reached for comment, The Crypt-Keeper said, "It's good to be back, boils and ghouls–and it's about time! Ahahahah!"

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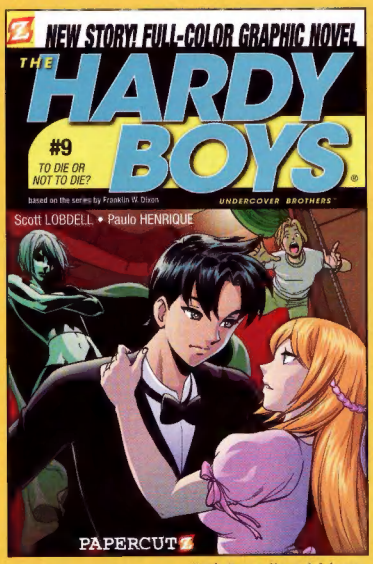

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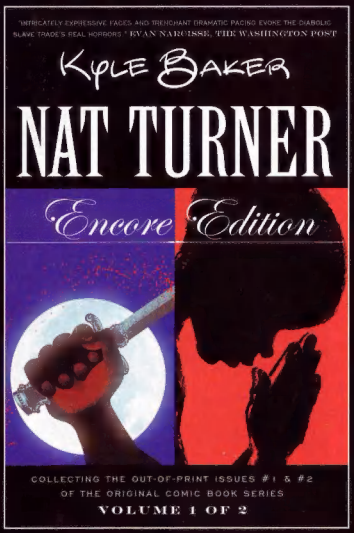

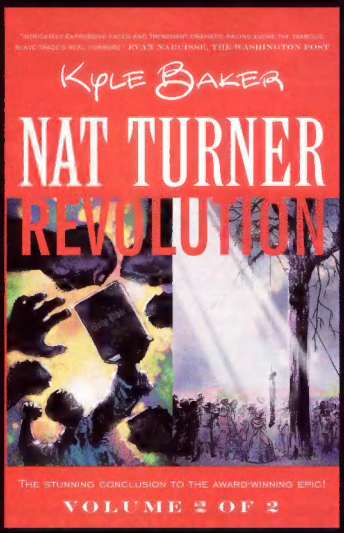

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